

28 January 1976

Bush Confirmed As CIA Director By Senate, 64 to 27

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed the long-pending nomination of George Bush to become head of the embattled Central Intelligence Agency.

President Ford named Mr. Bush to be CIA director in a shuffle of top officials last November. Outgoing director William Colby was fired after a rocky year of disclosures about CIA activities in two Congressional investigations.

Mr. Bush's confirmation was slowed by Democratic criticism that he's too much of a politician to hold such a sensitive post. Son of a Connecticut Senator, Mr. Bush was a Congressman from Texas and later chairman of the Republican National Committee during the height of the Watergate scandals. Most recently, he was the U.S. envoy to China.

The nomination was blocked last year in the Senate Armed Services Committee until Mr. Ford promised he wouldn't name Mr. Bush to be his vice presidential running mate.

The Senate vote in favor of the nomination was 64 to 27, with almost all the opposition coming from liberal Democrats. Speaking in Mr. Bush's behalf, liberal Republican Clifford Case of New Jersey argued the opposition was setting an excessive standard of nonpolitical purity. The job of CIA boss, said Sen. Case, "doesn't require a superman, and if it does that office ought to be abolished."